

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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----- 022924

R 241003 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4104

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: DIET NORMALIZATION

REF: TOKYO 6410

1. LDP AND OPPOSITION PARTIES REACHED AGREEMENT MAY 24 TO BEGIN NORMALIZING DIET PROCEEDINGS TOMORROW. AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR MEETINGS OF LOWER HOUSE STEERING COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR, INCLUDING EARLY DATE FOR LOWER HOUSE PLENARY SESSION, AND LOWER HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS TO HEAR PRIMIN TANAKA AND HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER MASUMI ESAKI STATEMENTS ON HANDLING OF ELECTORAL REFORM. OTHER COMMITTEES EXPECTED TO SCHEDULE SESSIONS AS SOON AS STEERING COMMITTEE CLEARS WAY.

2. LOWER HOUSE SPEAKER UMEKICHI NAKAMURA PREPARED GROUND FOR AGREEMENT BY MAKING WIDELY REPORTED CALLS YESTERDAY ON EACH OF FOUR OPPOSITION PARTY DIET POLICY CHAIRMEN, TO WHOM HE EXPRESSED REGRET FOR PERMITTING LOWER HOUSE VOTE TO EXTEND DIET SESSION MAY 19 WITH ONLY LDP MEMBERS PRESENT. HE TEMPERED APOLOGY WITH EXPLANATION THAT HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, IN VIEW OF BACKLOG OF PENDING BILLS. THESE FOUR CHAIRMEN DEMONSTRATED RESPECT FOR HIS SINCERITY BY MAKING JOINT RETURN CALL ON HIM THIS MORNING TO WORK OUT FINAL AGREEMENT TO MEET THIS AFTER-
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NOON WITH THEIR LDP COUNTERPART, LOWER HOUSE MEMBER KEN HARADA,
IN
WHICH DECISION REACHED TO CONVENE LOWER HOUSE STEERING COMMITTEE
AND SPECIAL ELECTION COMMITTEE.

3. COMMENT: OPPOSITION PARTY STOOD TO GAIN LITTLE FROM CONTINUATION
OF BOYCOTT OF DIET AFTER WINNING WELL- PUBLICIZED VICTORY IN
CAMPAIGN FOR LIMITED OBJECTIVE OF PREVENTING PRIMIN TANAKA FROM
SUBMITTING CONTROVERSIAL ELECTORAL REFORM BILL. OPPOSITION HAS
YET TO COUNT WINDFALL BONUS REPRESENTEDBY INCREMENTAL INCREASE
OF UNEASINESS IN LDP AND BUSINESS CIRCLES WITH IMPETUOUS MANNER
IN WHICH PRIMIN HANDLED ENTIRE ISSUE OF
ELECTORAL REFORM. ON OTHER HAND, PRIMIN TANAKA MAY BE
SATISFIED, IF THAT WAS HIS INTENTION, THAT ELECTORAL
REFORM HAS BEEN PLACED ON POLITICAL AGENDA AS MAJOR ISSUE, THUS
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING CORRECTING OVERSIGHT OF NOT INCLUDING IT IN
HIS POLICY SPEECH AT BEGINING OF THIS DIET SESSION.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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